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C U B A
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C U B A N S

By

WILBUR S. TUPPER

CUBA

AND THE

CUBANS

*With the Compliments
of the Author,
Nelver S. Tupper.*

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PUBLISHED BY THE
THE STATIONARY MANUFACTURING CO.
418 DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO

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CUBA AND THE CUBANS

DISCOVERY AND EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The Island of Cuba was discovered by Columbus, October 28, 1492. Fourteen days before, he had touched upon the small island which he named San Salvador, now called Watling Island, from the name of the present owner. Cuba may, therefore, be regarded as the first land of importance discovered in the new world. Columbus landed on the Island in the neighborhood of what is now known as Nuevitas, probably at the mouth of the Maximo River. The journal of Columbus during his first voyage, indicates his wonder and admiration for the fertility, beauty and richness of the Island. He termed it "the most beautiful land that eyes ever beheld," and called upon his companions to carefully note its beauties and its wonders; for he feared that his sovereign might not be able to believe that so wonderful and beautiful a country existed, it was so much a scene of enchantment. Columbus thought he had struck the mainland of a continent; but the Indians made him understand that it was an island. He took possession of the land in the name of the Spanish crown and named it Juana, after the son of Ferdinand and Isabella. After the death of Ferdinand, an attempt was made to give the Island the name of Ferdinand. Later on, it was called Santiago, after Spain's patron saint. This name still lives in one of the largest cities of the Island in the southeastern part. It was also called Ave Maria. But the native term, Cuba, has alone survived.

The first Spanish settlement was made at Baracoa, on the northeastern coast, in 1511. Then followed Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus, Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba. These settlements were made between 1513 and 1515 by Velasquez and Diego Columbus, son of the great discoverer. In 1515 there was founded the town of San Cristobal de Habana, on the present site of Batabano. In 1519, how-

ever, the city of Havana was moved to its present site on the northern coast.

The native Indians of Cuba were a mild, peaceful race, and showed a fair degree of civilization. They believed in a personal god and in the immortality of the soul. They lived at peace among themselves, the art of war being unknown to them. There being no wild beasts of importance or game animals in the Island, they were not accustomed to the chase, as were the northern Indians; and the prodigality of the soil rendered much exertion unnecessary. They were at once made slaves by the Spaniards and put to work in mines and fields. Unused to hardship, the entire native race became practically extinct in half a century. Toward the close of the sixteenth century, slaves began to be imported from South Africa; and from then on until the abolition of slavery, Cuba was one of the principal slave markets of the world.

SPANISH OPPRESSION AND THE REPUBLIC.

Spanish dominion in Cuba is a record of nearly four centuries of cruelty and oppression. Every industry and product was taxed to the uttermost. The administration of the Island in the hands of favorites of the crown, was one of graft and extortion in every conceivable form. Resistance and revolution inevitably followed, and hardly a decade passed without insurrection and strife.

One of the most important of these insurrections is known as the Ten Years War, which lasted from 1868 to 1878. One incident of that war is worthy of our attention. A Spanish gun-boat overhauled and captured off the coast of Jamaica, a steamer called the *Virginius* which claimed American registry. The Spaniards claimed it was a filibuster, and took steamer and crew to Santiago de Cuba, where on the 4th of November, 1868, three Cubans and one American were shot by order of the local commander. On the 7th, thirty-seven more men, including the captain of the vessel, were likewise executed, and on the 8th twelve more suffered the same fate. At this point the commander of a British sloop of war in the harbor intervened and saved the remainder of the crew numbering something over 100. This incident caused an outburst of indignation in the United States and nearly led to war with Spain at that time.

In 1898 war broke out between the United States and Spain, beginning with the blowing up of the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor. On May 20, 1902, the Cuban flag was run up on Morro Castle and the Palace, and the Island began its existence as an independent republic. Subsequent events are fresh in our minds. Internal dissension in the Island led to a revolution in the fall of 1906, which was promptly suppressed by the United States. The president of the Republic resigned, and an American military governor was appointed by the President of the United States.

It may be explained here that the reason for United States intervention and the appointment of an American governor to rule the Island arose as follows: The treaty between the United States and Spain, made at the close of the war, provided that the United States should guarantee in the Island a safe and stable government and likewise personal and property rights. Not only Spain, but England and Germany had large interests in the Island which would have been jeopardized by an unsafe or unstable native government and which called for this guaranty. Through his treaty, therefore, and by the Platt Senate Amendment on Cuban affairs, the substance of which was incorporated into the Cuban constitution, Cuba became practically a ward of the United States, and the United States became a perpetual guarantor of a stable government and the preservation of personal and property rights.

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES,

Cuba lies straight south of Florida and is about 100 miles from Key West. The extreme eastern end of the Island lies directly south of the City of New York, and the extreme western end is nearly due south of Cincinnati. From Cape San Antonio on the west, to Point Maisi on the east is a distance of 730 miles. The total length through the center of the Island, which curves upward in the middle, would be about 800 miles. The width of the Island varies from 25 miles from Mariel through to the Caribbean Sea, to about 125 miles at the widest point in the eastern part. It has an area of about 44,000 square miles, being about the size of the State of Pennsylvania.

Lengthwise throughout the Island there runs a watershed or ridge, developing here and there into a well de-

fined mountain range, but in the main being an elevated plateau, ranging from 100 to 500 feet above sea level. In the Province of Pinar Del Rio, in the west, there is a well defined range of hills called the Organ Mountains, reaching a height of 2,000 feet. In the southern part of Santa Clara Province there is a group of rounded peaks, the highest of which, Potrerillo, is 2,900 feet. The most important mountain range, however, runs from east to west along the southern coast of Santiago Province. These mountains rise to an elevation exceeding 8,000 feet. East of the City of Santiago these mountains are called the Cobre range, and it is here that the great copper mines of Cuba are located. The word "cobre," means copper. Here likewise, may be found a few survivors of the Aborigines, called the Cobre Indians.

On the north coast, in Camaguey province, there is a range of hills parallel to the ocean and about twenty miles distant from it, called the Cubitas Range. Between this range and the sea is the famous Cubitas Valley, which is noted for the depth and fertility of its soil. In the Cubitas Valley region are found the oldest and most prosperous American colonies. It is the typical American agricultural section of the Island. It was in this valley that the provisional government of the insurgents was established in their struggle for independence. While this range is not more than 1,000 feet high at the most, there are, however, several mountain passes with precipitous sides and of great beauty. Taken as a whole, however, Cuba has little mountainous country, except in Santiago Province. The mountains are not rocky like our western mountains, but are fertile, and subject to cultivation where not too steep.

All authorities agree that Cuba is the best watered of any tropical bit of land under the sun. Innumerable streams of clear, pure water pour down from the elevated interior into the ocean. All of the streams are well stocked with fish. The largest river is the Cauto, which rises in the mountains in the Province of Santiago de Cuba and flows westward into the Gulf of Esperanza; but the whole Island is well watered and well drained. In this respect, it presents a striking contrast to many parts of our southern states, where the land is flat and hardly rises above sea level. In the region of New Orleans, Galveston and many other southern points, digging ten or fifteen feet below the surface discloses salt water, and the rainfall is

depended upon for drinking water. Cuba lies high and dry, and in addition to its numerous fresh water streams, wells of fine drinking water are obtained by digging from fifteen to one hundred feet or more, as the case may be.

Cuba excels in fine harbors and has them in great numbers. The entire southern coast is marshy except between the cities of Trinidad and Cienfuegos and where the Maestre range rises precipitously from the sea. This marsh or low strip of coast is only a mile or two in width, except in the great Zapata Swamp south of Matanzas, which is 30 miles wide and about 70 miles long, an unexplored everglade. The northern coast is high and dry and in some places rapidly rises a hundred feet or more from sea level.

HAVANA AND OTHER CITIES,

To adequately describe the cities of Cuba would require a volume in itself, and I can touch upon this point but briefly. To begin with, Havana, with 300,000 population, is the undisputed metropolis, and easily surpasses all others in wealth, attractiveness and historical associations. From the time you pass Morro Castle, which stands sentinel like at the entrance of the narrow channel on the left, with the picturesque Malecon promenade on the right—until you have explored its extreme outposts, Havana is continually interesting and attractive. Havana Harbor might well be taken for a Mediterranean port with its varied and gay maritime features. Here may be found anchored, or coming and going, ships carrying the flags of all nations. An average of ten vessels arriving daily, indicates Havana's great shipping interests. Darting here and there will be found pleasure boats on the bay. The typical Cuban small passenger boat is the guadano, propelled by oars, with a canopy in the stern to protect passengers from the sun. The superstructure of the Maine is still visible in the harbor, a mute reminder of one of the great tragedies in our naval history.

The city, as a whole, is typically Spanish in general effect and coloring. Pinks, reds, greens, blues and yellows are used here with pleasing effect, and there is striking contrast with the red tiles of Spanish roofs. The city is rich in historical associations. Numerous fortresses re-

mind one of the struggles of early days. Here is La Fuerza, the oldest port, which has outlived the sacking of the city by pirates, its repeated captures by the French, and its occupation by the English in 1762. Morro Castle and its famous light which may be seen twenty miles out at sea; Cabanas Fortress, built by slave labor, which occupied twelve years in its building, and which cost more than that many millions of dollars. This fortification is most interesting with its parapets and dungeons. Its "laurel walk" under Spanish rule was the last march of captured Cuban insurgents; and its "dead line" provided human flesh for the sharks. Havana has gay theatres and stately cathedrals. The Christopher Columbus cathedral held the bones of the great discoverer for hundreds of years, until the Spaniards took the relics back with them to Spain. There are many beautiful parks and drives, bordered with noble palms and laurel trees. The Prado compares favorably with the Champs Elysee of Paris or Unter den Linden of Berlin. There are tropical gardens with fountains and statuary. In fact there is all that goes to make up a cosmopolitan Spanish city. It is a city of gaiety and pleasure, and is ever in holiday attire. Out of door life characterizes the city. In the open patios of houses and hotels, you are virtually out of doors. Cafes are wholly open on the street, being protected at night by closed shutters or iron grating. Many places of business are the same in this respect. Fine shops are found on Obispo and O'Reilly streets. Awnings are sometimes stretched straight across completely covering the narrow streets. Laces, jewelry, fans and shawls are especially displayed. In nearly all the better stores, English is spoken, and shopping is easy when you get accustomed to the double currency system. Cuba has no coinage of its own and uses our money as a standard. Spanish money is also used, and articles are sometimes marked in Spanish prices and sometimes in American. All you need to know is the value of our dollar in Spanish money; but be sure to count your change. You may ride with small expense. Seventeen cents and a fraction, in our money, will take two people in a carriage from one point of the city to another. Cabs and cab men abound and all people of consequence ride in carriages. Until recently, Havana was the only city in Cuba with street cars. Think of cities of 50,000 population without these facilities. Havana has been the capital since 1552, the

seat of government having previously been at Santiago. Baracoa was the first capital of the Island.

Havana is remarkably clean and well cared for. It is well policed and there is little crime. In cleanliness and order it has no superior among American cities.

While Havana is typically Spanish, Camaguey is truly Cuban. It is the most important of the interior cities. It is very ancient, and its appearance does not belie the fact. All the streets are narrow and crooked, a confusing labyrinth of paths. The houses are low. Projecting wooden bars protect the windows, and the heavy roof tiles overhang the streets. The narrow ledge-like sidewalk may be a foot high in front of one house, and three feet high in front of the adjoining house, or absent altogether, according to the whim of the owner. Massive and crumbling masonry tells of former centuries. Everything is old. "A general flavor of mild decay," as Oliver Wendell Holmes would put it. Rail communication with Havana and Santiago has been a matter of but three years. Out of touch with Spanish influences, the customs and manners are typically Cuban. For the same reason the spirit of resistance to Spanish oppression was ever strongest at Camaguey. This city was begun in 1515, at the harbor of Nuevitas, and was called Puerto Principe. Here it was exposed to the attacks of pirates, who raided and pillaged it. Later the city was moved to its present interior location. It was once raided and sacked on its present site by the redoubtable pirate Morgan in the sixteenth century. After the establishment of the Republic, the name was changed to the native Indian term, Camaguey.

In a word let me tell you something common to all Cuban cities, that you may better understand their plan of construction. In the center of every Cuban town you will find a square called the Plaza de Armas, or place of arms, generally "Plaza" for short. It was in this plaza that the cross was set up, the unvarying religious exercise which attended alike the discovery of a new continent or the humble beginnings of a home. The square served as a drill exercise ground for the soldiers and a place where religious processions might be formed. On the sides of the square were the government offices, the cathedral, and sometimes the soldiers' barracks. Around this square as a center the town grew and narrow streets, crooked and winding, ran out from the square in every conceivable direction.

To the visitor who first traverses these streets, it seems incomprehensible how so many crooked, narrow and irregular streets could be contrived. The new parts of some of the Cuban cities are laid out on the rectangular plan, as in this country; but the older cities present a street appearance not unlike the old parts of Boston and New York.

After Havana, in the order of size, come Santiago, Camaguey and Matanzas, each having between 50,000 and 60,000 population. Then comes Cienfuegos, Manzanillo and Cardenas ranging from 30,000 to 40,000. A new census is now being taken of Cuba under the direction of the United States authorities but the figures here given are approximately correct.

THE CUBAN HOUSE.

The architecture is peculiarly Spanish adapted to tropical conditions. The houses are low, usually of one story only, and the roofs are covered with heavy red Spanish tiles. Of 18,000 houses in Havana, 17,000 are one story high. Of the remainder very few are more than two stories high, with perhaps not more than a dozen exceeding three stories. There are four or five elevators used in Havana buildings and none elsewhere in the Island. In the houses of the rich the ceilings are very high and the floors covered with tiling or marble; in the poorer residences, the floors are brick. The houses are invariably flush with the street; the floors, as a rule, not being above the pavement, and sometimes being below it. Houses are usually constructed of stone or of a coarse cement. Window glass is practically unknown. Windows on the ground floor are protected by heavy iron gratings, oftentimes wrought into pleasing patterns. This grating is sometimes built out in a sort of bay window effect. These iron bars give a forbidding aspect to the window. But to young Cuban couples it is the only sunshine in their whole heaven of courtship. Only with this railing between, may they see each other without the watchful and unnecessary chaperon. It is to them, therefore, the garden gate and front porch combined. Inside of the grating are blinds of the ordinary kind, with shutters that may be turned up or down as occasion requires. In houses of the poorer people, solid window blinds serve both as protection against intruders by night and as a means of keeping out the sun. The windows in the sec-

ond story have shutters only, and often lead out onto a small balcony, a popular feature of the Cuban house. As a rule, houses are built around an open court or patio. The various rooms of the house open into this patio, which has cement or tile walks, with flowers and foliage in profusion. You will sometimes find a horse and carriage occupying a room near the general entrance of the house alongside the sleeping or living rooms occupied by members of the family.

The furnishings of houses are simple in the extreme, and puritanic in plainness. There are no carpets or upholstered furniture. Cane-seated chairs and rockers with a plain table or cane settee, comprise most of the furniture. They have a curious fashion of setting these chairs in rows facing each other in the middle of the room. If there be children, smaller chairs back of these, nearer the wall, indicate their places. A glance into a Cuban parlor gives the impression that arrangements have been made to hold a meeting. Cuban beds are clean and sanitary, but not so luxurious as those in the States. A simple iron or wooden frame covered with springs, over which a blanket is placed, constitutes the bed. A long roll filled with cotton serves as a pillow, and a light covering is sufficient to protect from the cool nights. Hotels and public places are built on the general plan just given; but the patio is larger and more imposing. The ceilings are high, and rooms could easily be sliced horizontally, making two stories.

The poor man's house in the country is more primitive. The side ~~walls~~ are made of the bark of the royal palm, fastened by fibrous bark and twigs. The roof is thatched with palm leaves, which are the standard Cuban shingles. The better houses have a board floor raised from the ground two or three feet, under which the pigs and chickens roam freely. The roof often projects, porch-like, beyond the inclosed rooms, and the open space underneath serves as kitchen, dining room and parlor.

THE CUBAN'S DAILY LIFE.

How does the Cuban live amid these strange tropical surroundings? The first meal in the morning is called "desajuno." It may be translated as early breakfast. This consists of fruit, coffee with milk, and rolls or bread. The Cubans do not use cream. Sometimes, but not generally with the native Cubans, butter is used. His next meal is

called "almuerzo," and may be translated as regular breakfast. This corresponds with our ordinary luncheon. It consists of various vegetables, fish, eggs, meats broiled or roasted, salad, dessert and coffee. Their next meal, taken between five and eight in the evening, is "comida," and corresponds with our dinner. This is much like the preceding meal, but, if anything, more elaborate, beginning with soup and extending through quite a number of courses. Unlike Mexican cooking, Cuban dishes are not full of pepper.

Now something about the cooking. The bread is delicious. It is more solid than our ordinary baker's bread and is baked in loaves two or three feet long, weighing five or six pounds. Its fine flavor is ascribed to the fact that banana stalks are used in fermenting the yeast. Butter, if found at all, is generally imported from Denmark or the United States, and is not much used by the natives. But a few Cubans and a number of Americans have gone into the dairying business recently with large profit to themselves. Butter is 50 cents a pound. Rice is boiled with chicken, used in curries and introduced in a variety of ways into many dishes. It is one of the principal articles of diet with the poorer Cubans, and is never absent from their tables. Eggs are of most delicious flavor, and are prepared in a great number of inviting ways. The same is true of fish, never found better anywhere. The meats, as a rule, do not equal the best grades of meat in this country. Such fruits as oranges and grape fruit far excel such fruits in the United States. The grape fruit particularly is a revelation to the northerner. It has a delicious flavor, free from bitterness and extreme sourness. In Cuba it is generally eaten without sugar. The other native Cuban fruits are good or bad, according to varying tastes. It is difficult to describe them.

The Cuban does not lead a strenuous life. He is ready for business at 9:30 or 10 o'clock in the morning, and continues until the time of "almuerzo," let us say at 12 o'clock. After this, he takes a rest or siesta until 1:30 or 2 o'clock. Then he is ready for business again until 4 or 5 o'clock. In the evening, he may attend the theatre. The Cubans are fond of the stage, and know what is good in drama and opera. The curious custom obtains in some theatres of buying tickets for a single act or "portandas." A consecutive performance, such as drama, is called "fun-

cion seguida." But at a vaudeville entertainment, one may buy a ticket for, and attend, a certain act only; or one may have one seat for one act and another for another.

As to women, the European code prevails. A lady must not be seen alone on the street, but must have a male escort who, of course, must be a relative. The ladies go out to drive or to shop in the afternoon, and receive calls both in the afternoon and in the evening.

Sunday is a day of sport and merry making. Religious exercises in the morning are usually attended by the women only, in a sort of vicarious way for the whole population. While Sunday is enjoyed in the freest way possible, some of the saints' days are religiously observed, many shops and places of business being closed. There is an appalling number of saints' days shown in the Cuban calendar, but there is not much uniformity in the observance of them.

PERSONAL AND RACIAL TRAITS.

The Cuban is easy going in disposition, with a tendency to procrastinate in all affairs. "Manana," meaning "tomorrow," is perhaps the most frequently spoken word in the language. It is the formula for indefinite daily postponement. They apparently have the old maxim reversed, and it runs with them: "Never do today, anything that can be put off until tomorrow." "Ahorita," literally, "right away," means anywhere from five minutes to two years. Cuban laborers are never in a hurry, and the Cuban farmer apparently lacks energy and ambition. This is not merely because nature raises his crops, requiring little effort on his part. For three hundred years, the farming class of Cuba has been obliged to contribute to the government, everything produced in excess of a bare living. The Cubans are peaceful by nature and domestic in habits. Cafes and amusement parks abound. In these places soft drinks, and sometimes stronger ones, are sold. They are remarkably temperate and a drunken Cuban is scarcely if ever seen in a cafe or amusement resort. It is to be regretted that the same is not true of many of the visiting Americans.

The Cubans are fond of amusements and games. The bull fight, before its suppression, constituted one of their principal sports, it having been early introduced from Spain. The great national game, however, was the cock fight. This

was to the native Cuban what shooting craps is to our colored population, or baseball to the small boy on the corner lot. To the great grief of the mass of Cubans, cock fighting has also been abolished by law. The protest made against the abolishment of this sport and the efforts to have it reinstated, may seem ludicrous to the northerner. There was a great demonstration in Havana, at which memorials and addresses were presented to Gov. Magoon and which ended with a procession through the streets, bearing banners conveying sentiments favorable to the re-establishment of the national sport. They could almost organize a political party in Cuba on the cock fight issue. A prominent Cuban planter seriously put forth the following argument, in favor of re-establishing the sport. He called attention to the fact that the Cuban laborer is naturally indolent. He works only as much as compelled to. It was pointed out that, under present conditions, about four days a week suffices to provide him and his family with the necessities of life. With the cock fight in vogue, this planter urged, he would be induced to work every day in the week, in order to have funds to bet on the national game.

The Cubans are naturally dignified and polite. They are profuse in expressions of friendship and hospitality, and are somewhat given to exaggerated compliment and hyperbole. Upon first being introduced to you, a Cuban may assure you that he is your servant to the ends of the earth. A gentleman says to a lady, "At your feet, madam;" whereupon she replies, "I kiss your hand." Of course, he does not literally put himself at the lady's feet, nor does she kiss his hand. In seeking an introduction to a lady, a young man very properly says, "Put me at the lady's feet." If you admire a picture or other article in a Cuban's house, he may at once say, "It is yours." You are not however, expected to take it away with you.

As a race, the Cubans are fond of display and inclined toward officialdom. Uniforms mean a great deal to them, and gold lace and braid are regarded with a degree of veneration. The Cuban funeral is a gorgeous function. Horses and funeral hearses are alike comparisoned in brilliant colors, giving anything but a somber aspect to the affair. Vaults in cemeteries are rented for a short term of years, usually five or six; after which the bones are unceremoniously removed, and the vault made ready for another tenant.

You may see street venders selling notions, pictures, shoes, milk and vegetables on the streets. Beggars abound, but are not so troublesome and insistent as in Italy and Spain.

Education is not universal and the mass of Cubans are illiterate. The Spanish system neither supported schools, nor encouraged them. The Cuban republic, however, instituted a common school system like that of the United States. Those who have had the benefits of education, compare favorably with the educated classes in other countries. No finer type of statesman can be found than Manuel Ramon Silva, Governor of Camaguey Province, or Rafael Montoro of Havana. No more able captain of industry can be found than Bernabe Sanchez of Senado. Many times a millionaire, he owns immense tracts of cane land, a large sugar mill, and in addition, the entire town of Senado, a city of some 3,000 people. So just and wise has been his treatment of his employes, that there has never been a strike or labor trouble in his mills or plantations. Manuel Sanguiy is conspicuous as a man of letters. Pablo Desvernine, the accomplished attorney, is a man of scholarly attainments. Enrique Jose Varona is known by his writings in philosophy. Aniceto Menocal is the great Cuban engineer. The world will not soon forget the work of Dr. Carlos F. Finlay, in discovering the secret of yellow fever transmission. Among the democratic leaders of men must be mentioned Alfredo Zayas and Jose Miguel Gomez, unostentatious but able. Cuba has many distinguished sons. I mention only the few of whom I know something in particular.

Racially considered, the Cubans must be regarded as descendants of the Spaniards and other European nations. The Aboriginal Indians were quickly exterminated and little of their blood is found in the Cubans today. Like the Spaniards, they are small in stature, as a rule, with dark hair and eyes, and strikingly show the Moorish strain in the Spanish blood.

Slavery brought many Africans into the island. At the present time the negro population is about 32 per cent of the whole, or about the same per cent as obtains in the city of Washington. This is a much smaller ratio than exists in our southern states. Furthermore, the negro element shows a tendency to relatively decrease in Cuba. In 1850, the blacks were 50 per cent of the population. The reason for this decline has not been satisfactorily explained.

There will never be a black peril in Cuba. There is some intermarriage between the negroes and Cubans, and the blended race is a far better product than comes from the negro and Anglo-Saxon. Socially in Cuba, the negro has been the white man's equal. Some traces of color line may be found in the fact that negroes frequent certain pleasure resorts at times when white people do not attend, but there is no prejudice or bitterness shown. This is in striking contrast to conditions in our southern states.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

Perhaps Cuba has been more universally praised than any other land under the sun. It has been called the Pearl of the Sea, the Gem of the Antilles, the Land of Perpetual June. An abundance of verdure and a profusion of flowers make all parts of the island beautiful. Cuba has some splendid scenery that should be specially noted. The Yumuri Valley in Matanzas province is one of the most beautiful and fruitful tracts imaginable. Humboldt called it the loveliest valley in the world. A view from the Monserrate Hermitage will confirm his statement. The lofty Maestra range, culminating in the Turquino peak, presents a mountain picture of great majesty. The range rises precipitously from the sea and the tropical blue green of the sea blends with the verdant green of the mountains. The cascades of Santa Clara are famed for their beauty. Cienfuegos presents a magnificent view of a land-locked harbor, surrounded by gently rising hills. The Grand Pass in the Cubitas Mountains rivals Colorado scenery in picturesqueness, and the view from the top of these mountains to the sea is beautiful and inspiring. As a whole, the land of sunshine, fruit and flowers, has been the astonishment and delight of all travelers.

The climate of Cuba explains this charm. Never intensely hot and never cold, its constant June-like weather, is the most delightful in the world. The close proximity of the ocean and the pleasant sea breezes, give even in the summer, a lower temperature than obtains in our northern cities. The maximum temperature ever observed in Havana was 100 degrees; the lowest, 49 degrees above zero. Contrast this with the maximum and minimum temperatures observed in the principal cities of the United States. Chicago, 103 in summer, and 23 below zero in the winter, a

difference between extremes of 126 degrees. Fractions of degrees are omitted in all cases. Havre, Montana, close to the Canadian line has a maximum in summer of 108, and a minimum in winter of 55 below, 163 degrees between extremes! The same is relatively true of our other cities. These extremes of heat and cold are not only disagreeable, but fatal. Thousands die in the United States each year from sun-stroke and effects of heat, particularly in the large cities, during the hot season. Fatalities also result from freezing and the effects of cold. Sun-stroke in Cuba is practically unknown.

Nor do the most favored regions of the United States compare with Cuba in uniformity of climate. Los Angeles has shown a maximum of 109 in summer, and a minimum in winter of 28 above—81 degrees between extremes, as against an extreme variation of 51 degrees in Havana. Jacksonville, Florida, has indicated 104 in summer and 10 above in winter. Ten degrees above not only kills blossoms and leaves, but utterly destroys citrus fruit trees, root and branch. Denver has shown an extreme of 105 in summer, and 29 below in winter. The temperature given for American cities are furnished by the Weather Bureau at Washington; those for Cuba are given by the Central Station of the Republic.

It seems strange that Cuba, which lies wholly within the tropics should be so cool in summer and so warm in winter. The reason is found in the fact that the island is a long, narrow strip of land, all parts of which are constantly under the influence of sea breezes. The surrounding ocean has, at all times, a temperature of about 70 degrees. The prevailing winds are from the northeast, with a velocity of about eight miles an hour. This makes the north coast the most favored part of this favored island. There is never any frost except it be on the tops of the highest mountains. The average temperature for January may be put at 70 degrees, and the average for July at 82 degrees.

Another explanation of Cuba's beauty and richness is found in the abundant rainfall. The average is about 55 inches per year, being fairly uniform over the island. This is a heavy rainfall as compared with that which obtains in most parts of the United States. The rainfall at Chicago is about 33 inches a year; at New York, about 44. The rainfall in southern California is about 16 inches a year.

An abundant rainfall may suggest a great many rainy days, and a good deal of disagreeable weather in consequence. But comparative figures are interesting: The average number of rainy days in the year, at Boston, is 133. The average at New York, 127. The average is 131 rainy days out of the year at Chicago. The average at Havana is 120 in the entire year. Thus, with a heavier rainfall, there are fewer rainy days than obtains in most parts of the United States, with the exception of the semi-arid portion in the extreme southwest. There are two seasons, the wet and the dry. Reversing the order in California, the wet season is in the summer, from June to October inclusive, and the dry season in the winter. There is in reality no dry season, the rainfall in winter being only less abundant than in the summer time. As a matter of fact, there is more rainfall in the so-called dry season in Cuba, than falls during the entire year in southern California. The peculiarity of the rainfall in the wet season is that showers come almost invariably between one and five o'clock in the afternoon. The rainfall in the winter consists generally of heavy showers during the night.

SUGAR AND TOBACCO.

The leading products of Cuba are sugar and tobacco, which at the present time tremendously overshadow all others. Of Cuba's \$110 000,000 of exports, sugar and its derived products, average about 65 per cent. Tobacco in its various forms, about 25 per cent, leaving 10 per cent for all other exports, such as citrus fruits, bananas, pineapples, cocoanuts, iron and copper ore, sponges, fish and hard-woods. The figures given are not exact as applied to any one year, but the general average for recent years. Nearly one-half of the cane sugar of the world is raised in Cuba; and nowhere does sugar cane grow more luxuriantly or of better quality. Instead of requiring replanting every two or three years, as obtains in our southern states, one planting in Cuba will suffice for ten or twelve years. An average of a million tons of sugar is produced on something like 400,000 acres of land. As a matter of fact, 47 per cent of the cultivated land of the island is planted to sugar cane. Sugar cane was introduced into the island soon after its discovery, and has been raised with success in every province. The growing and manufacture of sugar is of necessity done

on a large scale. A sugar mill, with its extensive and complicated machinery, costs from a quarter of a million dollars upwards. It is a crop, therefore, which can be advantageously handled only by the wealthy planter or by corporations. Some cane has been grown by the small farmer which has been offered to the mills for grinding, but this has not proved satisfactory. Furthermore, the small land owner can get much larger returns from other crops.

Tobacco is indigenous. Columbus found the natives contentedly smoking the weed. Tobacco of good quality is grown generally in all provinces. The famous Vuelta Abajo section in Pinar del Rio province, and the Tumbadero tract in southwestern Havana province are world famed for the quality of tobacco produced. The cultivation of the plant is in the main similar to that in vogue in the United States. Planting is generally in September, and harvesting in January, at least for the first or main crop. Some of the finest tobacco produced has been raised under covering of cheese cloth, about seven feet above the ground, completely covering the field. This tempers the rays of the sun, tends to keep the moisture in the earth, protects against the wind and against the tobacco moth and other insects. Nearly all of the leaves so raised may be used for wrappers. The cost of covering with cheese cloth is about \$300 per acre. In general, it may be said that Cuba does not have climatic or product zones. The small size and peculiar shape of the island gives a uniformity of conditions in every part. The one exception to this, like the celebrated grape regions of France, is found in the places mentioned above, where remarkably fine tobacco is grown. Agricultural science has been, as yet, unable to discover the secret of this excellence. The product of a single acre of tobacco in this specially favored region has brought from \$4,000 to \$5,000. There are greater profits in tobacco raising than in the raising of cane, but the risks are commensurably greater.

CITRUS FRUITS.

The American colonization of the Island, particularly in the rich valleys of the north coast, has given an impetus to the growing of citrus fruits. This is assuredly nature's home for the orange and lemon, for these fruits are found growing wild in the thickets. With a soil like that of Riverside, California, only richer and deeper, with an

abundant rainfall and no need of irrigation, citrus fruits can be raised abundantly and profitably. The young grape fruit or orange trees come into bearing two years earlier than in California or Florida. Lemons from the Cubitas district have brought the highest prices in New York. Furthermore, the trees bear a greater quantity of fruit and of a finer flavor. The Florida frosts which have several times ruined the citrus fruit groves in that state, and the remoteness of Southern California from the markets, make Cuba the most favored spot in the world for the cultivation of citrus fruits. It must be remembered that no citrus fruits can be grown in Southern California except by irrigation. The water problem is the serious one which confronts that prosperous and beautiful section of the United States. The things, however, which have made Southern California so prosperous, exist in greater abundance and in greater perfection in Cuba. Above all else, proximity to the world's markets is tremendously in favor of the little Republic. Practically the first systematic attempt at citrus fruit culture in Cuba was made by the American colonists, with results that bid fair to make the Island the great citrus fruit garden of the world.

CASSAVA (YUCCA).

A very important product of Cuban soil is the cassava or yucca. It is a large root or tuber, something like a coarse potato but containing much more starch. It is used for the manufacture of starch, in feeding dairy and beef cattle, and hogs, and also by the Cubans as food for the table.

The United States Government, in a special report on Cassava, says:

"It has been demonstrated to be the cheapest food for hogs and cattle, while it produces better starch than corn and potatoes. Several factories for making it into starch have met with such success that other factories have been established. It can be utilized in more ways, can be sold in more different forms, can be more cheaply converted into staple and finished products and can be produced for a smaller part of its selling price than any other crop."

"It is unquestionably true that cassava, all things considered, comes nearer to supplying a perfect ration for farm stock than any other food."

Exhaustive tests were made by the Government in feeding corn and cassave to hogs. The percentage of gain was 70 per cent for corn, against 95 per cent for cassava. The difference between the two is about 25 per cent in favor of feeding cassava to hogs.

Counting the market value of cassava at \$6.00 per ton, the result shows the actual cost of the meat, per pound, was 1.4 cents where cassava was used, and 3.6 cents per pound where corn was used.

The actual cost of producing cassava in Florida is about \$2.00 per ton. The yield is about seven tons to the acre, and cassava is one of the money crops of Florida. The yield in Cuba is from 15 to 20 tons per acre, where it grows continuously without replanting. In the Cubitas Valley the yield is reported to have reached the astonishing figure of 80 tons per acre! What an opportunity for starch factories.

TIMBER AND HARD WOODS.

Just a word as to Cuba's wealth of forest. Of the Island's twenty-eight million acres, nearly one-half is still covered with forest. The whole island was a forest when the Spaniards discovered it. The greater portion of the standing timber now in the island is in the province of Camaguey and Santiago.

Of the many useful woods produced some are worthy of special mention. There are many varieties of palm, of which the cocoanut and royal palms are the most valuable. The latter is used in many ways. From its bark, the native makes the walls of his humble dwelling. The leaves are used to thatch the roof; also hats and baskets are made from them. Articles of use and ornament are made from the wood, which takes a fine polish. The clusters of small knots "palmeche," furnish food for hogs. While the tender shoots at the tufted top serve as a vegetable for the table, tasting not unlike cauliflower. To the root is attributed medicinal virtue. Is it any wonder that the natives call it the "blessed tree?" The royal palm is most imposing. Its whitish, gray trunk, smooth and straight, rises forty or fifty feet, and is crowned with a bright green mass of long, graceful plume-like leaves. Nothing is more stately and majestic than an avenue of royal palms.

Mahogany, Cuban cedar, majagua, sabacu, jiqui, ebony, rosewood and many other fine, hard woods abound. Pines are also found, especially in the western end of the island. Pinar del Rio means, literally, "Pine grove of the river." There are great possibilities of wealth in these forests. Mahogany is very valuable, and Cuban cedar, from which cigar boxes are made, is even more valuable than ordinary mahogany. Caguairan and jiqui last in the ground like iron. Cuia is the most durable of all woods in the water. While the forests of the United States are being fast depleted, there is still in Cuba, a great abundance of timber suitable for the finest furniture, for railway ties or for building lumber.

OTHER PRODUCTS.

The cocoanut is the best lazy man's crop on the island. From 100 to 150 trees are put on an acre and each tree at maturity, bears nuts valued from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per annum. The trees begin to bear in five or six years. Cocoanuts require no cultivation after getting started, and small crops may also be raised between the trees. A minimum of labor is required in harvesting the crop, which consists merely in gathering up the nuts as they fall from the trees, and getting them to the seaboard. Not being a perishable product, the cocoanuts can await a convenient time for shipping or a favorable market. From Baracoa are shipped, annually, cocoanuts to the value of \$200,000 or more. Large mills are located at Baracoa, where the smaller nuts are made into cocoanut oil or cocoanut butter. The outer husk is also utilized for coarse mattings.

Cuba produces all vegetables grown in the United States. Under the influence of favorable climate and soil, many of these grow wild, and most of them will grow with little care. American colonists have been very successful in raising winter vegetables for the northern markets; and this industry promises to be a most important one.

Indian corn is profitably grown in Cuba. Two crops a year are generally raised, and three crops have been obtained from the same land in one year. The corn is of good quality and is preferred to corn imported from the States. Not enough corn is produced, however, to supply the wants of the Island. And this has been raised with little care or attention to the matter of planting or cultiva-

tion. Modern methods of cultivation will bring for the American farmer enormous profits in corn raising in Cuba. Rice is also produced of good quality, but not enough to supply the native's table. The kind grown is the upland or dry land rice.

Cuba excels in fibre plants, chief of which are henequen, lengua de vaca and ramie. It may be noted as one of Nature's wise economies that henequin will grow on the dry Savanas where other plants would hardly live. Extensive fibre and cordage plants are supplied by these products. Excellent cordage is also made from the bark of the maguey tree, the wood of which is very valuable.

The aguacate or alligator pear, is well known in the north to the lovers of salad. Likewise the guava from which delicious jellies are made. Other Cuban fruits are the mamey, mango, papaya, sapota, chirimoya, lime, mamón, guanabana, anona or sweet sop, caimito or star apple, the tamarind and pomegranate. Cuba produces all the fruits grown in the United States, with the exception of apples.

The bananas constitute an important product, all of the exports going to the United States. While they grow freely all over the island, they are best raised near the coast, not merely on account of shipping facilities, but because they are well adapted to low land. The ordinary yellow or red bananas are the kinds grown for export. In addition a very fine dwarf or fig banana is grown, but this is consumed on the island.

In early days, Cuba supplied excellent coffee to the United States. Now hardly enough is raised for home consumption, cane and tobacco having been raised to the practical exclusion of everything else. An important product is the cacao tree, from which chocolate is made. This flourishes most in the eastern provinces and is a growing industry. Coffee, chocolate and tea may be seen growing in the same garden.

Cuba is particularly adapted to cattle raising, and here again is the anomaly of meat imported into Cuba. The late war practically took all the cattle in the island, and Cuba must import meats until its pastures are restocked. The native guinea and parana grasses are the best in the world. With pastures green the year round, and without the expense of fodder and housing in the winter, Cuba should be the cattle men's paradise.

The mineral wealth of Cuba is worthy of our attention. Copper has been the leading product of the mines. Under Spanish rule, the reports show copper exports to the value of \$45,000,000. Iron ore of the finest quality is found. A New Jersey firm uses Cuban iron ore exclusively for the manufacture of fine steel. \$2,500,000 worth of iron ore is imported from Cuba annually, and other iron mines are being developed. Marble of good quality is found in some places. Asphalt beds have been developed in the regions of Trinidad and Holguin. Coal has likewise been discovered; but the abundance of wood and the cheap cost of charcoal has rendered the exploitation of coal unnecessary.

THE AMERICAN INVASION.

Shortly after the establishment of the Republic, American capital began to flow into the island, for the development of all its varied industries. Americans established mercantile houses and banks, started factories, built railroads, and planted orange groves. The blight of Spanish control having passed, the prosperous development of a land under such favorable natural conditions, became inevitable. No attempt at detailed account of exploitations in the various fields referred to will be made here. Some account of the American colonists who have been raising citrus fruits, vegetables, etc., will be of interest.

It was the privilege of the writer, last winter, to visit a number of these American colonies. Nothing could better indicate the widespread interest in Cuba, than the personnel of the party making this trip. There was a live stock man from Montana, an orange grower from southern California, a congressman from Chicago a land dealer from Dakota, and a preacher from Alabama, eight or ten sections of the country being represented in a party of twelve. We visited La Gloria, the oldest and one of the largest of the American colonies on the island. This colony furnishes a most striking example of success under difficulties and disadvantages. The serious charges against the early management of this company were apparently well founded. The colonists were landed in a virgin forest, where they found themselves with scant facilities for getting supplies and equipments for building houses, clearing the forests, or cultivating the soil, to say nothing of the transportation problem. Unpreparedness in every respect, marked the be-

ginning of this settlement. If ever a colony faced conditions that warranted failure, it was La Gloria, and still it succeeded. Soil and climate finally overcame the many disadvantages, which preparation could have avoided. It is now a flourishing village of eight or ten hundred people, with a church, school house, hotels and stores of various kinds. There is also a daily mail and an American newspaper. They now have a steamboat of their own connecting them with Neuvitas. Many stories were told of early hardship and privation. One man landed with his goods and \$10 in money. He has made, in five years, a fine success and owns 100 acres of land, a fine orange grove and many domestic animals. Another man, an orange grower of Florida, frozen out in that state, landed with his family and \$30 in cash, his total resources. He is now prosperous. There is now a chain of American colonies through the Cubitas Valley district. The colonists who now go to that region will not find themselves strangers in a strange land. Finer fruit cannot be seen anywhere in the world, and vegetables, corn, etc., are grown successfully.

WHAT ATTRACTS COLONISTS.

What are the conditions which have attracted American colonists to Cuba? Some of the conspicuous advantages of the island, which have appealed strongly to the home seekers are:

1. Immunity from dangerous animals, reptiles and insects. Unlike most tropical countries, there are no savage beasts in Cuba, nor are there snakes or insects whose bite is dangerous. There is nothing in nature to threaten the colonist nor to menace his domestic animals. Mosquitoes, flies and other insects, which are annoying on the coast, are rarely found in the interior. One may travel through the forests for days without seeing a spider's web. This is in striking contrast to Mexico, Central and South America, where serpents and insects abound whose sting is death, and where dangerous wild beasts are in the forests.

2. A mild and salubrious climate. No intense cold with its physical discomforts and increased cost of living, heavy clothing and coal bills. Fully half the savings of the poor man in the north must be used in the winter to offset the effects of a cold climate. Whether rich or poor, whether he buys his own coal or pays an increased rent for

a heated apartment, every northerner pays a heavy tribute to the Ice King, from November until May. As a matter of fact, we are rapidly using up our fuel supply. James J. Hill, the railway magnate, has more than once sounded a note of warning in regard to the depletion of our coal fields and forests. Thomas A. Edison, the great scientist, in an interview at New York, May 21, 1907, said: "Unless science takes hold of and finds something, some force, that will run our engines and light and heat our houses, as a substitute for coal, it takes no prophet to foresee that our grandchildren will be forced to live in a world that is destitute of heat and light, except as these blessings are given to them by the sun."

3. A soil of wonderful depth and richness. Robert T. Hill, the eminent geologist, calls them "fertile calcareous soils, red and black in color, and of a quality and depth unequaled in the world." The Encyclopedia Americana says: "In quality, in depth, * * * these soils are unrivaled in the world. It is quite certain that they have no rival in any land whose situation is equally favorable for cheap and easy transportation to markets." Wells have been dug in the Cubitas Valley, 20 feet deep to water, running all the way through pure soil. In the region of Havana similar soil has been cultivated for 300 years before being exhausted.

4. The possibility of two or more crops a year. Two crops of corn, potatoes, onions, and other vegetables. Nature is active every month of the year in Cuba, and the soil is so strong that it needs no rest.

5. All tropical products are possible, and many of the products of the northern zone can be raised easily and with great profit.

6. The small degree of care and attention required to produce results. Where nature does so much, less is required of man. A striking example of this is found in the native method of growing crops. An opening in the ground is made with a pointed stick, in which the seed or portion of root is placed. This constitutes planting in the Cuban sense of the term. This is done between the stumps of trees oft times with no plowing or other cultivation whatever. With American methods and improved machinery what may not reasonably be expected from so favorable a climate and soil. In passing, contrast these advantages with the conditions that confronted the early settlers of New England.

7. Special adaptation for citrus fruits. The great citrus fruit markets of the United States are east of the Mississippi River, where the bulk of the population is. Florida, on account of heavy freezes which have ruined the groves, cannot be considered in the matter of citrus fruit competition. Cuba, however, is much nearer to New York than is Southern California or Western Mexico. It is also nearer Chicago. The force that will move a ton upon rails, will move four tons upon the water, and there are no railroads to be constructed on the ocean. The cheaper cost of transportation from Cuba to our eastern ports, more than offsets the duty on the Cuban fruit, leaving all the natural conditions in favor of the Cuban product.

Will the development of Cuba overdo the citrus fruit business? Please remember that the whole island is smaller than our average western state. The great country to the northwest of us has hardly begun to be developed. We may reclaim many millions of acres of our arid land in the western states. Our country and Canada can and will, easily sustain, ten times the present population. But the development of the great northwest will not add one acre to the ground that will grow oranges. Nature has irrevocably drawn the line where citrus fruits may be produced. She has apparently unkindly decreed that Florida shall not raise oranges; and thus the last decade has actually reduced our citrus fruit area. Citrus fruit lands in Southern California, where sufficient water can be obtained, are worth from \$250 to \$500 per acre. Better land in Cuba in small tracts, sells from \$25 to \$50 per acre. There is no reason why lands in Cuba, which are now ridiculously cheap, should not, with the development of the island, be as high if not higher in price, than similar lands in southern California. An abundant rainfall and nearness to the world's markets, should make the Cuban lands more valuable than California fruit lands.

· HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Is Cuba healthful? It has no extremes of heat or cold; it is not low and marshy, but lies high and is well drained; it has abundance of fresh, pure streams and no standing, stagnant water. There are the natural conditions that make for healthfulness. Under Spanish rule, however, there was no attempt at sanitation; filth abounded and the cities were

veritable breeding places of sickness in all its forms. During the first American occupation, the cities were cleansed and the most thorough of sanitary measures applied. At the present time the cities of Cuba are as wholesome and healthful as are the cities of the United States.

Medical science has taught us that health does not depend in any great degree, upon temperature, altitude or latitude. London today, is one of the healthiest of large cities, but in olden times it was depopulated again and again by the black plague and colera, before it learned the lesson of cleanliness, and stopped throwing slops and refuse into the streets to putrify and spread contagion.

The average death rate of the cities of Havana, Manzanras, Camaguey and Santiago, is 19.5 per 1,000 of population. This is somewhat higher than the average for all the cities of the United States. Camaguey, however, shows a death rate of only about 14.5 to the 1,000 of population. Two facts of great importance must be borne in mind in comparing the mortality of Cuban cities with those of the United States. It would be manifestly unfair to compare the old cities with the young western cities of the United States, which have an unusually large proportion of young people. Also it must be remembered that the death rate of the negro population, both in Cuba and in the United States, is very high. Comparisons, therefore should be made with the older cities of the United States, and with those that have a negro element in the population. The death rate of cities of the United States having 10 per cent or more of negro population, is 20 per thousand, as against 19.5 per thousand for the four large Cuban cities referred to. Of these, Havana shows the highest mortality, the rate being 21.2. But San Francisco is 20.1 per thousand; New Orleans shows 23.7; Mobile, 25.2; Atlanta, 24.1; Jacksonville, 28.7, and Charleston, S. C., 29 per thousand of population.

With the cleansing of the cities, yellow fever practically disappeared. The mortality from this disease has been greatly exaggerated. It was never known in many places in the interior. Under Spanish rule, at its worst, not half as many deaths resulted from yellow fever as from consumption; and the mortality from consumption has always been proportionately less in Cuba than in the United States. It must be remembered that since the establishment of the Republic the most modern of sanitary appliances and methods have been vigorously enforced.

RELATION TO UNITED STATES.

Attention has been called to the fact that Cuba takes her place among the nations of the world as a ward of the United States. There are no reasons why this close relationship should be dissolved, and many reasons that call for a closer one:—

1. From a commercial view point, Cuba is very important. Lying between North and South America, it is the key to the new world. All the markets of the world are readily reached from its ports. With the completion of an interoceanic canal its commercial importance is all the more apparent. It lies squarely between the canal and the ports of the United States. Its eastern end lies close to the route from the canal to the ports of Europe. Think also of the advantages to Cuba in the matter of shipping facilities, when all the steamers that pass through the canal must go by its shores! The United States alone of great nations has no tropical territory ministering to its wants. More than one-half of England's vast wealth is derived from its tropical possessions. One has but to enter any grocery store or fruit stand, winter or summer, to realize how many tropical products are demanded by, and supplied to our people. We have Puerto Rico, indeed, but it is a tiny island with an area of only 3,668 square miles and has nearly 1,000,000 inhabitants.

In this connection the Philippine Islands come to mind; but our remote Asiatic possessions are not to be compared with Cuba. It takes from 24 to 27 days for boats from Manila, to make the nearest ports of the United States, and then the continent must be crossed to get to our larger markets. From Cuba, boats reach the ports of the United States in from seven hours to Key West, to three and one-half days to New York. The most northern point of the Philippines is south of the southern point of Cuba, and those islands extend nearly a thousand miles farther south. We cannot send beef to our own soldiers in the Philippines, because the best cold storage facilities cannot stand the strain of the long voyage through tropical seas. To get fruits or any perishable products from those islands is entirely out of the question. In other respects the comparison is equally unfavorable to the Philippines. It is an oriental country peopled with Asiatics. It does not become us to talk of the "yellow peril," when we annex territory where

it grows indigenous. The Philipinos are Malays; the Cubans, Caucasians. The native inhabitants of southern California, Arizona and New Mexico, at the time of the annexation of that territory to the United States, were of the same blood as the people of Cuba. In short, Cuba is America; the Philippines, Asia. The United States needs Cuba and Cuba needs the United States. Of Cuba's 110 millions of exports, 85 per cent goes to the United States; of approximately the same imports 45 per cent comes from the United States. This is a necessary tax on the peoples of both countries in the matter of duties, the products being essentially different.

2. If Cuba may be considered as a commercial importance to the United States in time of peace, it may well be regarded as a military necessity in time of war. It is the nearest large island to this country of great strategic importance, and it would be disastrous to have it occupied by a hostile power. Our interests surround it. Florida is to the north, Puerto Rico to the east, and the canal to the south.

3. The very conditions existing in Cuba today render desirable and probable its closer connection with the United States. The Cuban constitution already recognized the right of the United States to guarantee a safe and stable government in the Island and to protect life and property. The sentiment in Cuba is divided. Without exception, however, foreign property owners are heartily in favor of closer relations. Nor is this confined to American interests alone. None the less anxious are the German, English and Spanish interests that rights shall not be jeopardized by more native insurrections following an attempt at self-government. Furthermore, the Cuban moderates, who constitute the property-owning class of the Cubans, prefer closer relations to the United States, to a government, as they term it dominated by negroes and illiterates.

The annexation of Cuba is not a new idea resulting from the Spanish-American War. In 1848, President Polk offered \$100,000,000 for the purchase of the Island. In 1854, the Ostend Manifesto appeared, which had the backing of Buchanan and other prominent men. It was a declaration to the effect that Cuba should be annexed to the United States, by purchase if possible, and if not, by conquest. The troubled state of affairs preceding our Civil

War overshadowed this issue at the time, but it was mooted again in President Grant's time.

What the future of the Island will be, no one is prophet enough to declare. Under the constant guardianship of the United States, it may develop into a stable and enduring little Republic. If not, then its guardian must exercise a closer protectorate over it, somewhat as England exercises over Egypt, or it may adopt it into the family as a Territory, or as an independent State.



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